Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

Enabling provisions provided in the Weldlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

National Afforestation Programme in Goa

3278. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether National Afforestation Programme is being implemented in the State of Goa;

the essential features of the programme;

the projects undertaken in the State of Goa, since the commencement of the programme; and

the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Afforestation Programme is aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through decentralized two-tier set-up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

(c) and (d) Three FDA projects have been approved in Goa so far at a total project cost of Rs. 239.21 lakh to treat total project area of 1250 ha. through 26 Village Forest Committees under JFMCs. Subsequently the State has requested to revise these projects in light of detailed assessment of the type of area available and has submitted revised project proposals based on the actual area availability appropriate for different types of interventions and regeneration models.

Forest cover of the State of Goa

3279. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the present forest cover of the State of Goa;

the changes in the cover since 1961, till this date;

the efforts made by Government as also by the State Government as to increase the forest cover;

the method adopted to assess the forest Cover; and

when was the last assessment made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The forest cover of the State of Goa, as per 2005 assessment made by Forest Survey of India (FSI) is 2,164 km^2.